House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 755

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7250

House of Representatives, April 23, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 46b-121n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two members of the General Assembly, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, children, human services and appropriations, or their designees;

(3) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court

Administrator's designee;

(4) A judge of the superior court for juvenile matters, appointed by the Chief Justice;

(5) The executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department, or the executive director's designee;

(6) The executive director of the Superior Court Operations Division, or the executive director's designee;

(7) The Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee;

(8) The Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's designee;

(9) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee;

(10) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee;

(11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

(12) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(13) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

(14) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(15) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(16) The president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or the president's designee;

(17) The chief of police of a municipality with a population in excess

of one hundred thousand, appointed by the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association;

(18) Two child or youth advocates, one of whom shall be appointed by one chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, and one of whom shall be appointed by the other chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee;

(19) Two parents or parent advocates, at least one of whom is the parent of a child who has been involved with the juvenile justice system, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(20) The Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's designee;

(21) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

(22) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee;

(23) Two children, youths or young adults under twenty-six years of age with lived experience in the juvenile justice system, **[**one of whom**]** who shall be appointed by the **[**house chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and one of whom shall be appointed by the house ranking member of such joint committee**]** community expertise subcommittee;

(24) One community member who may be a family member of a child who has been involved with the juvenile justice system or a credible messenger with lived experience in the juvenile justice system and who works with youth in the juvenile justice system, nominated by the community expertise subcommittee and appointed by the chairpersons of this committee;

(25) One member of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, appointed by the tribe; **[**and**]**

(26) One member of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, appointed by the tribe;

(27) The Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee; and

(28) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee.

Sec. 2. Section 46b-121n of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (v) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

(NEW) (v) (1) There is established within the committee a state advisory council to fulfill tasks assigned to the state and required by the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, 42 USC 5601 et seq., as amended from time to time. Such tasks shall include, but need not be limited to, participating in the development of and annual revisions to a juvenile justice plan for the state and advising state agencies on administering the plan and the allocation of certain grant funds. The state advisory council shall have the opportunity to review and comment on all applications for a formula grant under Title II of said act submitted to the state.

(2) The council shall consist of at least fifteen members, but not more than thirty-three members as follows:

(A) The undersecretary for the Office of Policy and Management, who directs the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division established pursuant to section 4-68m of the general statutes, or the undersecretary's designee; and

(B) The remaining fourteen to thirty-two members, each appointed by the Governor in a manner consistent with said act, as follows:

(i) At least one-fifth of whom shall be under the age of twenty-four years at the time of the member's initial appointment; and

(ii) At least three of the members shall have been or are under the

jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system, or if not feasible and in appropriate circumstances, a parent or guardian of such a person.

(3) The term for each member of the council appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be three years beginning on June thirtieth, and ending on June thirtieth or until a successor is appointed.

(4) Any member may serve two full terms, which may be consecutive.

(5) The Governor shall stagger the initial appointments to the council.

(6) Any member appointed to fulfill a term left vacant by a member shall serve for the remaining period of such term and may be reappointed subject to limitations provided in the provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection.

Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-198c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) Each local and regional board of education that (A) has a district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district, (B) has a school under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team at such school, (C) has more than one school under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at each such school, or (D) has a district chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or higher and one or more schools under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism rate of fifteen per cent or higher shall establish an attendance review team for the school district or at each such school. Such attendance review teams shall be established to address chronic absenteeism in the school district or at the school or schools.

(2) Any attendance review team established under this subsection

may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school counselors, school social workers, teachers and representatives from community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants, as defined in section 10-198a, and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such truants and chronically absent children and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall meet at least monthly.

(3) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n, as amended by this act, on each district with an attendance review team, including specific efforts and outcomes of such teams that are for alliance districts, as defined in section 10-262u, as reported in the alliance district plan, and any effective practice implemented by an attendance review team to reduce chronic absenteeism rates.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each municipality or agent of a municipality operating a juvenile review board or another diversion program for youth shall annually report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary and children and to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney on data related to children diverted by the use of such board or program and the outcomes of such diversions, and as otherwise directed by the Department of Children and Families.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 1, 2026, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b of the general statutes, the chairpersons of the Juvenile

Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and representatives of the community expertise subcommittee of said committee shall develop (1) a state-wide uniform youth diversion policy for proposed adoption by said council, and (2) a youth diversion training curriculum for proposed inclusion in minimum basic training programs requiring satisfactory completion for purposes of obtaining certification as a police officer.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Department of Children and Families shall report on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan released by the department in March 2024, to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Such initial report shall use metrics in use at the time of such reporting. Not later than September 30, 2025, the department shall consider and may develop additional metrics for use in successive annual reports.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall annually report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee established pursuant to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, an evaluation of the reentry success plan developed pursuant to section 3 of public act 23-188, as amended by section 2 of public act 24-139, and provide policy development coordination at the Office of Policy and Management and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch. Such evaluations shall be conducted using a secure data enclave.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	46b-121n(b)
Sec. 2	*from passage*	46b-121n(v)
Sec. 3	*from passage*	10-198c(b)
Sec. 4	*from passage*	New section

Sec. 5	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 6	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 7	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Section 5, Subsecs. (a) and (b) were consolidated for clarity.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	148,100	145,900
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits[1]	GF - Cost	60,000	60,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of approximately $148,100 in FY 26 and $145,900 in FY 27 to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for one additional staff and equipment to (1) annually evaluate and report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee on a reentry success plan for juveniles released, and (2) coordinate policy development between OPM and the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division. There is a corresponding annual cost of $60,000 beginning in FY 26 to the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits.

The bill also (1) establishes an advisory council within the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), and (2) outlines various reporting requirements that do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

[1]The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7250

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes an advisory council within the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) to (1) help develop the state's juvenile justice plan in line with federal requirements, (2) advise state agencies on administering the plan, and (3) review and comment on certain grant applications.

The bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the JJPOC chairpersons, and representatives of JJPOC's community expertise subcommittee to develop a proposed (1) statewide uniform youth diversion policy for JJPOC's adoption and (2) youth diversion training curriculum for inclusion in minimum basic training programs that lead to police certification. Both must occur by February 1, 2026 (§ 5).

It also creates the following four annual reporting requirements:

1. the State Department of Education (SDE) must report to JJPOC on school districts' attendance review teams and effective practices these teams use to reduce chronic absenteeism,

2. municipalities operating a juvenile review board or other youth diversion programs must report data to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) on children diverted by using the boards or programs,

3. DCF must report to JJPOC on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan, and

4. the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) must report an evaluation of the state's juvenile reentry success plan to JJPOC.

Lastly, regarding JJPOC's membership, the bill (1) expands it by adding the housing and emergency services and public protection commissioners, or their designees, and (2) requires the community expertise subcommittee, rather than the Judiciary Committee's House chairperson and ranking member, to appoint JJPOC's two members who are under age 26 with lived experience in the juvenile justice system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 2 — ADVISORY COUNCIL

Purpose

By creating the advisory council, the bill helps the state meet its requirements for pursuing Title II formula grants under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

This federal law furthers juvenile crime prevention efforts by giving grants to states for programs that support delinquency prevention, intervention, and juvenile justice system improvements. Generally, to receive a grant a state must have a juvenile justice plan that meets specific requirements, designate a state agency to prepare and administer it, and have a state advisory group to give policy direction and participate in its preparation and administration.

In line with this federal requirement, the bill tasks the new council with (1) helping to develop and annually revise the state's juvenile justice plan and (2) advising state agencies on how to administer it and allocate grant funding. It also requires that the council have the opportunity to review and comment on the Title II grant applications submitted to the state.

Membership

The bill requires the council to have at least 15, but no more than 33, members. It consists of the OPM undersecretary who directs the

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, or the undersecretary's designee, with the remaining members appointed by the governor. The governor must stagger initial council appointments.

For the governor's appointments, the bill requires at least (1) 20% to be under age 24 when first appointed and (2) three who either have experience in the juvenile justice system (either past or present), or, if that is not feasible and if it is appropriate, are a parent or guardian of someone with this experience.

The bill sets the term for appointed members at three years, starting on June 30 and ending on the same day or until the governor appoints a successor. It allows members to serve two full terms, which may be consecutive. A member appointed to fill a vacated position serves for the remaining term amount and may be reappointed, as long as it would not exceed the bill's two-term cap.

§§ 3, 4, 6 & 7 — REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Chronic Absenteeism (§ 3)

The bill requires SDE to annually report, beginning by February 1, 2026, to JJPOC on each school district with an attendance review team. The report must include (1) specific efforts and outcomes of teams in alliance districts, as reported in the alliance district plan, and (2) any effective practice an attendance review team implemented to reduce chronic absenteeism rates.

By law, school districts with chronic absenteeism rates above certain thresholds must establish attendance review teams. These teams are tasked with reviewing cases of truant and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals, and making recommendations for the children and their parents or guardians.

Alliance districts are school districts with the lowest Accountability Index (AI) measures or that were previously designated as an alliance district in certain fiscal years (currently, there are 36 total). The AI score measures school district performance based on student standardized test scores plus additional measures such as student growth over time.

Municipal Diversion Data (§ 4)

The bill requires each municipality or municipality's agent that operates a juvenile review board or other youth diversion programs to annually report to DCF, and as DCF directs otherwise, on (1) data about children diverted through the board or programs and (2) the outcomes of the diversions.

Juvenile review boards are diversionary and prevention programs designed to help local police departments deal with juvenile offenders. They are usually composed of representatives of local youth service agencies, police departments, and the juvenile court.

Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Plan (§ 6)

The bill requires DCF to annually report to JJPOC, starting by July 1, 2025, on its implementation of the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification (STTAR) Enhancement Plan that it released in March 2024. The first report must use metrics in use at the time of the report, but by September 30, 2025, the bill requires DCF to consider, and allows it to develop, added metrics to be used in the following reports.

The STTAR Enhancement Plan is an updated group home program for children removed from their homes by DCF due to high-risk situations.

Reentry Success Plan (§ 7)

The bill requires the OPM secretary to (1) annually report to JJPOC with an evaluation of the reentry success plan for juveniles released from DOC and judicial branch facilities and programs and (2) coordinate policy development between OPM and the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD). It requires the evaluation to be done using a secure data enclave.

By law, the reentry success plan is developed by the CSSD executive director and the commissioners of correction, children and families, and education, or their designees, in consultation with JJPOC's incarceration, community expertise, and education subcommittees. It

incorporates specific restorative and transformative justice principles covering things like academics, housing, mentoring, treatments, and training, and requires a quality assurance framework and information about federal and state funding.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/04/2025)